

Message Text

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42

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-05 OIC-02 NIC-01 /075 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 289

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0534

LONDON FOR ALDRICH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, PFOR, VN VS SZ

SUBJECT: PRG ISSUE AT LOW CONFERENCE: VIEWS OF CONFERENCE

SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. SUMMARY: IN A CALL JANUARY 29 ON THE SWISS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LOW CONFERENCE, AMBASSADOR HUMBERT, OFFICER USDEL EXPLAINED USG POSITION ON PRG ISSUE IN SOME DETAIL. HUMBERT WAS INTERESTED BUT NON-COMMITAL. HE HOPED TO AVOID A "CONFRONTATION" AND THOUGHT PRESIDENT GRABER WOULD NOT CHOOSE BETWEEN ARTICLE 32 AND ARTICLE 35 PARA 4, LEAVING THE ISSUE TO THE CONFERENCE TO DECIDE INSTEAD. GRABER WILL PRESIDE FOR ONLY A FEW DAYS, THEN TURN THE CHAIR OVER TO THE REVOLVING LIST OF VICE-CHAIRMEN. THE PLO ISSUE IS STILL DORMANT. END SUMMARY

2. USDEL OFFICER CALLED JANUARY 29 ON AMBASSADOR JEAN HUMBERT, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
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OF THE LOW CONFERENCE. A SWISS NATIONAL, HE REFLECTS

SWITZERLAND'S POINT OF VIEW ON CONFERENCE ISSUE.
THE MAIN TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WAS THE PRG ISSUE.

3. HUMBERT LISTENED RECEPTIVELY TO USDEL OFFICER'S PRESENTATION OF THE USG'S SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL CASE AGAINST PRG ADMISSION TO THE CONFERENCE, BUT HE WAS TOTALLY NON-COMMITTAL. USDEL OFFICER STRESSED THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR THE USG, AND ONE ON WHICH OUR VIEWS ARE STRONGLY HELD AND OUR CONFIDENCE IN OUR CASE FIRM. HUMBERT WAS INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT WE ARE MAKING OUR VIEWS KNOWN IN CAPITALS AROUND THE WORLD.

4. HUMBERT ASKED FOR OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE OUTCOME. USDEL OFFICER REPLIED THAT THE VIEWS OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WERE STILL UNCERTAIN BUT THAT BOTH THE SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL VOTES, IF HELD, COULD BE CLOSE. HOWEVER, WE KNEW THAT QUITE A FEW COUNTRIES WHICH WERE HESITANT ON THE SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION SUPPORTED US ON PROCEDURE. HUMBERT COMMENTED THAT THE FACT THE USG IS MOUNTING SUCH A STRONG CAMPAIGN, IN EFFECT PUTTING ITS POSITION ON THE LINE, INDICATES A COMMITMENT TO A FAVORABLE OUTCOME. USDEL OFFICER AGREED.

5. HUMBERT SEEMED DISMAYED AT THE "CONFRONTATION" HE SAW DEVELOPING ON THIS ISSUE. PRECISELY BECAUSE HE WANTED TO GET THOSE OLD CONTROVERSIES OUT OF THE WAY QUICKLY AND GET ON WITH THE CONFERENCE'S WORK (A POINT USDEL OFFICER HAD JUST STRESSED), HE WONDERED IF THERE WAS NOT SOME COMPROMISE THAT COULD BE WORKED OUT. USDEL OFFICER RESPONDED BY REFERRING TO THE PRG'S INTRANSIGENCE. IT SOUGHT ENTRY AS A GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO US. NO ROOM FOR FLEXIBILITY WAS APPARENT.

6. USDEL OFFICER PROBED ON HOW PRESIDENT GRABER WOULD RULE ON RULE 32 VERSUS RULE 35 PARA 4. HUMBERT MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT, IN HIS VIEW, GRABER WOULD AVOID A CHOICE BETWEEN THESE RULES, LEAVING IT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CONFERENCE TO DECIDE.

7. OTHER POINTS THAT HUMBERT MADE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) GRABER WILL PRESIDE ONLY FOR A FEW DAYS. AFTER THAT, THE CHAIRMANSHIP WILL REVERT ON A REVOLVING BASIS TO THE CONFERENCE'S VICE-CHAIRMEN, EACH OF WHOM PRESIDES FOR HALF A DAY AT A TIME. THIS WAS THE PRO-

CEDURE FOLLOWED LAST YEAR WHENEVER THE CHAIRMAN HAD
TO BE ABSENT. PICKING UP THE REVOLVING LIST WHEN IT
STOPPED LAST YEAR, THE FIRST SUBSTITUTE CHAIRMAN WILL
BE THE PHILIPPINE, THE NEXT THE ROMANIAN, ETC.

(COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PRG'S PROPONENTS
WILL WAIT TO SPRING THEIR ARGUMENTS UNTIL THE ROMANIAN
GETS INTO THE CHAIR. END COMMENT)

(B) THE PLO SEEMS TO BE CONTENT WITH ITS
PRESENT OBSERVER STATUS, AND THE PLO ISSUE MAY NOT
ARISE. BUT THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT A PRO-PLO
STATE FROM RAISING IT.DALE

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